

May 19, 2013

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

My Name is Donna Del Vecchio and I live in Cheshire CT and I currently practice as a dental hygienist.

I am providing this as testimony regarding two bills being raised in the legislature this week:

HB No. 6589 "The Establishment of a Task Force to Study the Scope of Practice of a Dental Hygienist"

~ A dental hygiene midlevel provider has been studied and explored numerous times since the 1940's. A study is not required to show what we have already researched and presented.

The CT Dental Hygienists' Association has provided this background information.

SB No. 993, "An act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary"

~ As written, the bill language allows for too much open interpretation, the dental auxiliary language could be edited to be more precise, as was agreed to during last years' Program, Review and Investigation (PRI) process. EFDA is proposed with only the individual dentists oversight, in our opinion and for public safety DPH should oversee the EFDA certification as they do the dentist and dental hygiene licenses. Furthermore, we request that SB No. 993 be amended to include the dental hygiene mid level provider (also agreed to during last years' PRI process) as stated in the 2012 HB 5541 and then vote to adopt it for this 2013 legislative session.

I am in opposition to both HB 6589 and SB No. 993 (as written). I know that my association, on my behalf, has given the Public Health Committee background information and would be willing answer any matter that needs clarification. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please speak against HB No. 6589 and amend SB No. 993 on my behalf.

Respectfully,

Donna Del Vecchio, R.D.H.